



# PARISH PARCHMENT



Holy Redeemer  
Lutheran Church

[www.holyredeemer.church](http://www.holyredeemer.church)

*Growing to and for Christ!*

July 2020

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*<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.” John 10:7 NRSV*

Dear Beloved Community of HRLC,

I’ve been thinking about doors of late. Since we, as are many other congregations, are in prayer about how to safely “open our doors” again for worship in our building – the image of the open door looms large.

In the tenth chapter of John’s gospel, Jesus speaks about himself as both the shepherd of the sheep and also the gate or the door of the sheepfold. These are the third and fourth “I am” sayings of Jesus in John. Of course, the image of Jesus as the good shepherd is beloved and has sustained the faithful in this and every generation. We can imagine a shepherd taking care of one’s flock. The image of the door or the gate is a bit more removed. In this context, the “I am” sayings of Jesus – the Shepherd and the Door/Gate – are blended together.

A sheep pen or fold in the countryside is the place where the shepherds would keep their flocks in good weather. This type of sheep pen was nothing more than a rough circle of rocks piled into a wall with a small open space to enter. Through it the shepherd would drive the sheep at nightfall. Since there was no gate to close—just an opening—the shepherd would keep the sheep in and wild animals out by lying across the opening. He would sleep there, in this case literally becoming the door to the sheep. This is the sort of door/gate Jesus is says that he is. Both of these images suggest, according to John, that Jesus is both our protector and our way to life with the Good Shepherd.

A door, however essential, is an inanimate object. It swings back and forth. At times, a door serves to protect others who remain behind it as it was doing when the disciples were hiding behind locked doors after Jesus had been crucified. They huddled in fear and confusion, worrying that they would meet the same horrid fate as their beloved friend and teacher, Jesus. Jesus appeared to them, not bound by the door and said, “Peace be with you.”



After the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the pastors and members of 116-year old Holy Trinity Lutheran Church found themselves in the midst of an unprecedented time of being the Church in the midst of the heartbreak and strife the unfolded in their neighborhood. This image of their open door taken by their pastor, Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen, has captivated thousands of others, including the writers at the Christian Century magazine (<https://tinyurl.com/y7o8soar>).

Suddenly and by necessity, Holy Trinity’s doors were flung open. They, the pastor and members

with masks donned and with as much physical distancing as they could muster, served as a medical station for two nights tending to the wounded and the weary. God makes a way for doors to be opened, even in a pandemic. As word spread about their care, they began receiving incredible amounts of donations: food, diapers, toiletries, and plywood for boarding up broken windows, cleaning supplies, tools. They were trying to get these donations in and then back out to the community as quickly as possible. Pastor Angela Khabebe said, “I’m overjoyed that we can open up our doors and give away food and supplies and diapers to people.”

As our HRLC Task Force for Re-gathering prayerfully and diligently does its work mapping a way for us to more safely gather for worship in our building, let us also be in prayer about the ways we will imagine opening the spiritual doors of our hearts and the spiritual doors of our ministries to tending the needy in Cedar Rapids and the work of doing justice for all people in our community.

Though we are apart, we are blessed by Christ Jesus, our shepherd and our door,  
Pastor Jayne Thompson

## Council Corner

Holy Redeemer's Council met via Zoom conference call on Thursday, 11 June at 7:00 p.m.

**Suspension:** Executive Committee recommended continued suspension of all church activities. However, a task force has begun work on details of when and how to safely return to in-person worship. The first phase of this will be a return of the Sunday worship live stream to the sanctuary. This will begin (as we did in March) with only a small worship leadership group.

The task force will continue to do its work and provide best practice recommendations. Council will re-evaluate at their regularly scheduled meeting on 9 July 2020 (also via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.).

**Finances:** During the month of May, we were short of our total budgeted income goal by \$4,236. We exceeded the building fund goal by \$668, but fell short of general fund goal by \$4,904. Total expenses, on the other hand, have remained relatively low.

## Office Remains Closed

With our continuing suspension of activities, the church office remains officially closed. You can reach Pastor by email

([pastor@holyredeemer.church](mailto:pastor@holyredeemer.church)), text or cell phone: 320-492-6377. She will get back to you as soon as she is able! Admin Assistant, Jeff Hand can also be reached by email ([secretary@holyredeemer.church](mailto:secretary@holyredeemer.church)), text or cell phone: 319-899-7688. Jeff continues to stop at church daily to process mail, check voice mail, and handle the limited tasks that cannot be done from home. If you need to stop by the church, please contact Jeff to make arrangements.



## SE Iowa Synod

### Synod Assembly Rescheduled

Synod Assembly has been rescheduled for Friday, August 7, 2020 at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines.

### Additional Information

For more information from our synod, visit <https://seiasynod.org/>. There you can find weekly newsletters (<https://seiasynod.org/news-events/news/>), messages from Bishop Burk, and a number of resources related to COVID-19 (<https://seiasynod.org/covid-19/>).

## Outreach

### June Mission of Hope

A big thank you to Marc & Lora Van Buren for their help with our June Mission of Hope meal. Marc ordered the food for us. He provided the to-go boxes and the lettuce. Our thanks to Marc, Lora, DeAnna and Judy for making the sandwiches and packaging the meals. The meals included a ham or turkey hoagie, chips, a clementine, and cookies. We dropped off 120 meals plus some extra sandwiches.

The Mission does not have immediate plans to reopen their dining room. We expect to be serving box lunches for a while.

Your support of Mission of Hope is greatly appreciated.

**Our next scheduled Mission meal is set for Thursday, July 18.**

The Outreach Committee: Arlan, De, Loretta, Nicole, Jan and Judy

## Family Promise

We continue to assist Gloria Dei in providing a meal for the family supported by the Family Promise Organization. The family currently lives at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. Churches take turns providing the meals Holy Redeemer furnished the evening meal on June 1.

The Outreach Committee: Jan, Arlan, De, Loretta, Nicole, Jan and Judy

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering

In July, our designated fourth Sunday offering is scheduled for July 26. The proceeds from this offering will go to **Habitat for Humanity** (local chapter).

*"Habitat for Humanity International has built and rehabilitated more than 800,000 houses with partner families, helping house more than 4 million people and becoming a true world leader in addressing the issues of poverty housing."*

## Linn Community Food Bank

"The Linn Community Food Bank continues to serve the community! We are giving away a 3-day supply of food (pre-packed in a paper grocery bag) to individuals from 1:00-3:00, Monday through Friday, in the parking lot of First Presbyterian Church. ... Donations are needed more than ever right now!"

Our next Food Bank weekend (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month) is scheduled for July 12.

## How to Give to Special Offerings

With worship services and other activities suspended, you may wonder how to give to Habitat for Humanity or Linn Community Food Bank. When submitting your offering, simply indicate on your offering envelope, the memo line of your check, or in a separate note. Counters will ensure it gets the proper designation and funds will be sent to the organizations. Thank you for your generous support.

## Blood Drive

The semi-annual Gloria Dei/Holy Redeemer blood drive will be held at Holy Redeemer on:

**Thursday, July 23, 2020**  
**3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

(Even though the church is closed we have been given permission by the council to host the drive.)

**Blood is desperately needed.**  
**Please consider giving.**

**Think of your relatives, friends, neighbors who have received the gift of a blood transfusion. Maybe you've had one? Remember how happy you were that your loved one received the blood donation. This is a critical time in our country. Help your family, your neighbors, your friends by donating blood.**

**You can register at [bloodcenter.org](http://bloodcenter.org) or you may contact Judy at [judytoy62@gmail.com](mailto:judytoy62@gmail.com).**

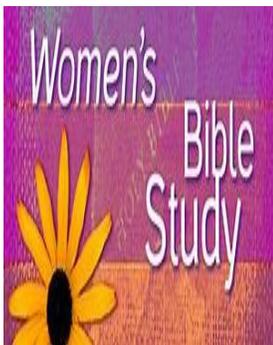
**Masks are required!**



## Adult News

### Women's Bible Study

The Bible study for July is: **Just Love** by Christa Compton & Gladys Moore. Session #2 is: "In the community: From tree to we." Focus verses are: **Luke 19:8-10**.



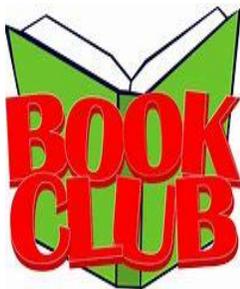
(Copies are available in the WELCA notebook on the shelf under the women's bulletin board.) If you would like an email copy, please contact Jeff Hand, Administrative Assistant.

### WIGS (Book Discussion Group)

As with all group activities, WIGS is unable to meet at the church. However, this is an ideal time to read.

The book for the month is: **The Hamilton Affair** by Elizabeth Cobbs.

All are welcome to join us. The reading list for 2020 can be found on the Women's bulletin board.



### DUO (Do Unto Others) Day

Thanks to all who help with the quilt sewing! Sewing at home is the name of the game – if you need fabric or batting, help yourself in the quilt room. We thank all who have been sewing masks as well as quilts!

Speaking of masks, Kelly Moritz finished her commitment of 100 masks for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) with the help of her family and friends. Those masks will be sent to LWR for distribution to "individuals in vulnerable communities." Thank you, Kelly!



With help from sewers like Kelly, LWR met their first goal of 75,000 masks. They have upped the challenged to "75,00 More" masks and at last check they had collected 107,425 masks. If you are interested in learning more, or wish to contribute

masks, refer to <https://lwr.org/masks>. Deadline for the challenge is October 1.

### Senior Saints

No current activities scheduled. Watch your email, the website, and the newsletter for updates.

### No Fellowship Events Scheduled

Look for future announcement from the Fellowship committee when line dancing and other events may resume.

## Let's Do Lunch

*Will not meet in July*

### In Our Prayers

If you should become hospitalized, please

### Hospitalized Members

If you should become hospitalized, please remember to let the hospital know you are a member of Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church when you are admitted or have someone contact the office. While Pastor Jayne may not be able to visit, she can call and our prayer chain would be happy to keep you in prayer.

### Thanks from Susan Adams

*A very heartfelt THANK YOU for all of the very kind notes I've received. It's been an honor serving as the HRLC janitor these past 3 years - Thank you all for your love and support! Susan Adams*

## LSI's Host Homes Program

Each year, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) empowers hundreds of Iowans with disabilities. And despite the COVID-19 pandemic, this year is no different. There is no greater joy for us than seeing an individual develop greater independence, find their confidence, and thrive. And through our innovative Host Homes program, LSI has found a new way to lift up our Iowa neighbors and keep them safe in times of crisis.

Through the program, adults with disabilities (or “mentees”) move from a supported community living setting – like a 24-hour, fully staffed home with roommates – and into a private family home with a Host Homes “mentor.” LSI collaborates with the individuals we serve and the contracted mentors to ensure each match is the perfect fit and create a shared living opportunity that is beneficial to mentors and mentees. With the extra safety precautions associated with COVID-19, this program is a safe option where participants are in a home setting, interacting with one trusted mentor instead of several staff members.

LSI is seeking compassionate and dedicated caregivers to join us in the mission. If you have room in your heart and in your home, being a Host Homes mentor might be for you! Visit [LSIowa.org/HostHomes](https://LSIowa.org/HostHomes) to learn more. If you are interested in supporting crucial programming like LSI's Services for People with Disabilities, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org).

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [LSIowa.org](https://LSIowa.org) and [Facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://Facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### **We are Still Here: LSI's Services for People with Disabilities**

Becky, an LSI Direct Support Professional, supports her client every day through LSI's Services for People with Disabilities. During the COVID-19



crisis, Becky has spent her shifts adding extra safety measures and precautions so she and her client could safely go to the grocery store for food and supplies when the time came.

But her client regularly experiences PTSD, depression, and anxiety, among other mental health conditions, and the isolation and crisis measures around COVID-19 only heightened her experience of these conditions. Becky knew she needed to do something to keep her client feeling comfortable and safe.

During their sessions together, Becky makes sure they practice good hand washing and wear masks. Her client knows she has someone walking alongside her every step of the way, and the client's young daughter found a way to thank Becky for her work: a picture with the words, “I don't like COVID-19, but I'm happy when you come over.” “I can't imagine not seeing my clients through this,” Becky says. “We are all in this together.”

### **A Word of Thanks from Pastor Jayne and her family**



Thank you to all who have been keeping our nephew, Jacob Vance, in your prayers. I'm away in Sacramento, CA at the time of this newsletter production, helping my sister, Carol, with care for Jacob who remains in the ICU Burn Center at UC Davis Medical Center. He is making good progress in his healing. Although, as you might imagine, it's a daunting process given the nature of his injuries and the extent of his burns. He has had four surgeries since May 24<sup>th</sup> and the next one will be on July 6<sup>th</sup> if everything goes as planned from now until that date. I've been able to help Jacob eat his meals since his hands are bandaged and I get to keep him company while my sister tends to her other duties related to her work. Jacob is a remarkable, outgoing, kind young man and tends to “look on the bright side of life.” He's grateful for all miracles that have come his way in the midst of this terrible accident. He's been dreaming of going to the beach. If you're so inclined and want to send him a “beach card,” you could mail that to: UC Davis Medical Center, Jacob Vance, ICU Burn Unit, Room #3, Sacramento, CA, 95817. We are so grateful for the caring support for our family at this difficult time.

## Youth News

### Thank You from Hannah Van Buren

The church office received a thank you note from Hannah which reads:

*HRLC Family,*

*Thank you to everyone who joined in celebration of my graduation. I have recently moved to Waterloo and I am working fulltime as a lab technician at Northland Products Company. Thank you again for your continued love, support, and prayers.*

*In Christ,*

*Hannah Van Buren*

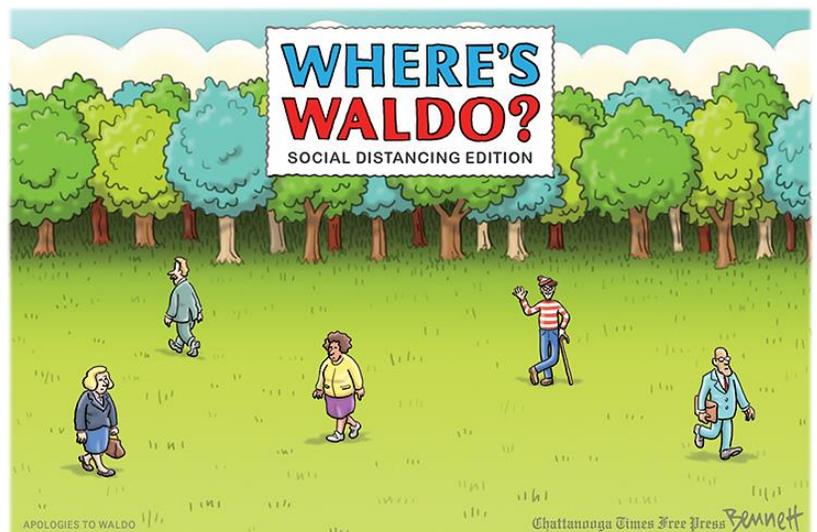
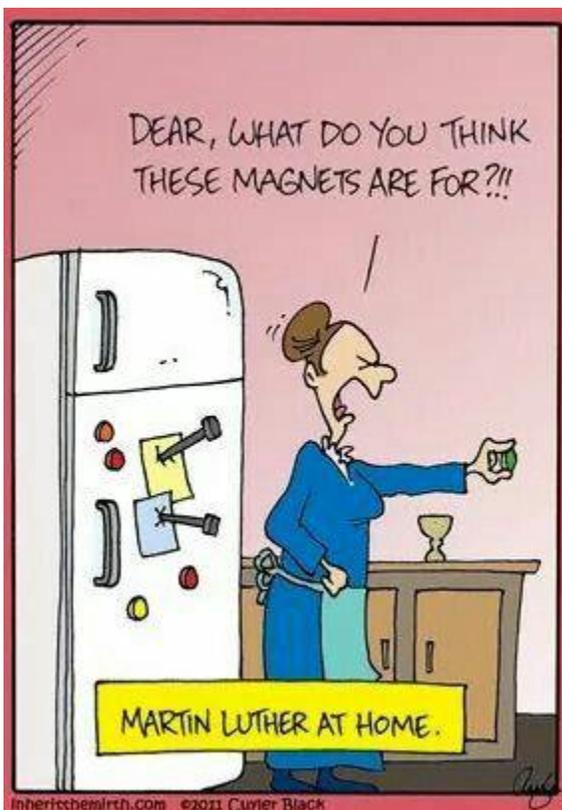
(I hate to say it, Hannah, but this is likely your last mention in Youth News. Your on to Adult News now! ☺)

## Encouragement

(While we take a global pandemic very seriously, a little humor and good cheer can help us through)

Funny church signs (as found on Google):

- "Prophecy class canceled due to unforeseen circumstances"
- "Wash Hands. Don't Touch Face." – Hygenesis 24:7



## Future Events

### July 2020

Note: Activities in our building continue to be suspended except with council permission.

<b>Jul 2 (Thu)</b> 6:30 pm Executive Mtg (Zoom) Committees (TBD - chairpersons)	<b>Jul 16 (Thu)</b> Mission of Hope Meal
<b>Jul 3 (Fri)</b> Holiday – Office Closed	<b>Jul 19 (Sun)</b> <b>9:00 am Worship</b> (FB Live) 10:00 am Coffee Hour (Zoom)
<b>Jul 4 (Sat)</b> Independence Day	<b>Jul 20 (Mon)</b> Newsletter Deadline
<b>Jul 5 (Sun)</b> <b>9:00 am Worship</b> (FB/YouTube)	<b>Jul 21 (Tue)</b> Bible Study (via email)
<b>Jul 7 (Tue)</b> Bible Study (via email)	<b>Jul 23 (Thu)</b> <b>3:30-6:00 Blood Drive @ HRLC</b>
<b>Jul 9 (Thu)</b> 7:00 pm Council Meeting (Zoom)	<b>Jul 26 (Sun)</b> <b>9:00 am Worship</b> (FB Live) 10:00 am Coffee Hour (Zoom) 4 <sup>th</sup> W/E Offer'g/Habitat for Humanity
<b>Jul 12 (Sun)</b> 10:00 am Coffee Hour (Zoom) Food Bank Weekend	<b>Jul 28 (Tues)</b> Bible Study (via email)
<b>Jul 14 (Tue)</b> Bible Study (via email)	

### August and September 2020

<b>Aug 2:</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship	<b>Sep 1:</b> 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:30 p.m. Card Players 3:00 p.m. Bible Study
<b>Aug 3:</b> 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision	<b>Sep 3:</b> 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Executive Meeting 7:00 p.m. Committee Meetings
<b>Aug 4:</b> 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:30 p.m. Card Players 3:00 p.m. Bible Study	<b>Sep 6:</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship
<b>Aug 6:</b> 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Executive Meeting 7:00 p.m. Committee Meetings	<b>Sep 7:</b> Holiday – Office Closed 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision (?)
<b>Aug 7:</b> SE Iowa Synod Assembly	<b>Sep 8:</b> 3:00 p.m. Bible Study
<b>Aug 9:</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship Food Bank Weekend	<b>Sep 9:</b> 11:00 a.m. Pr. & SM meeting
<b>Aug 11:</b> 3:00 p.m. Bible Study	<b>Sep 10:</b> 9:30 a.m. WiGS 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting
<b>Aug 12:</b> 11:00 a.m. Pr. & SM meeting	<b>Sep 13:</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship Food Bank Weekend
<b>Aug 13:</b> 9:30 a.m. WiGS 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	<b>Sep 15:</b> 12:30 p.m. Card Players 3:00 p.m. Bible Study
<b>Aug 16:</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship	<b>Sep 17:</b> Mission of Hope Meal
<b>Aug 17:</b> 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision	<b>Sep 20:</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship
<b>Aug 18:</b> 12:30 p.m. Card Players 3:00 p.m. Bible Study	<b>Sep 21:</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision (?)
<b>Aug 19:</b> 9:00 a.m. Sr Saints Coloring @ Scooters	<b>Sep 22:</b> 9:30 a.m. DUO Day 3:00 p.m. Bible Study
<b>Aug 20:</b> Mission of Hope Meal <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>Sep 24:</b> 11:30 a.m. Let's Do Lunch
<b>Aug 23:</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship 4 <sup>th</sup> W/E offering – Take Away Hunger	<b>Sep 27:</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship 4 <sup>th</sup> W/E offering – Madge Phillips Center
<b>Aug 25:</b> 9:30 a.m. DUO Day 3:00 p.m. Bible Study	<b>Sep 29:</b> 9:30 a.m. DUO Day 3:00 p.m. Bible Study
<b>Aug 27:</b> 11:30 a.m. Let's Do Lunch	
<b>Aug 30:</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship 5 <sup>th</sup> W/E offering – ELCA Campus Ministries	

## HRLC WORSHIP CONSIDERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**Thank you for all of your prayers and support for one another during this unprecedented pandemic. Your feedback is important as we pray about and think through our next steps together.**

### A. RETURN TO IN PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES

Current guidelines for reopening for in person worship services recommend the following:

- Required wearing of masks/face coverings.
- Conducting forehead temperature scan prior to entering the building.
- Maintaining six feet of physical distancing between persons at all times.
- Avoiding practices such as congregational singing and congregational responsive speaking during the service.
- Sharing the peace without physical contact.
- Not offering communion.

1. Based upon the current guidelines, are you likely to attend in person worship at HRLC in the future?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Undecided at this time \_\_\_\_\_

If you are willing to share the reasons why you are likely to attend, unlikely to attend or are undecided, please let us know here:

2. If we receive a number of responses which indicate more people are likely to attend in person and, under the current guidelines, we may be unable to accommodate everyone for a Sunday service, the possibility of a Wednesday evening service may be considered. If a Wednesday service is offered in addition to a Sunday service, are you likely to attend in person worship on Wednesday evenings?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Undecided at this time \_\_\_\_\_

If you are willing to share the reasons why you are likely to attend, unlikely to attend or are undecided, please let us know here:

3. Based upon the current guidelines, are there other types of in person worship you would you be interested in attending in the near future?

4. Please let us know any other thoughts or concerns you may have regarding the return to in person worship services at HRLC in the near future.

### B. VIRTUAL/ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

1. Do you currently participate in HRLC's virtual/online worship services?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If you currently participate in HRLC's virtual/online worship services, how pleased are you with those services?

Very Pleased \_\_\_ Pleased \_\_\_ Neutral \_\_\_ Not Pleased \_\_\_ Very Unpleased \_\_\_

2. Based upon the current guidelines, are you likely to participate/continue to participate in HRLC's virtual/online worship services?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Undecided at this time \_\_\_\_\_

If you are willing to share the reasons why you are likely to participate, unlikely to participate or are undecided, please let us know here:

3. Please let us know any thoughts or ideas you may have about HRLC's current virtual/online worship services including any thoughts or ideas you may have to make the current virtual/online worship services better.



## Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church

720 Edgewood Road NW  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405

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### Church Staff

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secretary@holyredeemer.church

#### Jacqueline Murphy

*Director of Music Ministries*  
(319) 396-8547

#### Kim Clinton

*Custodian*  
(319) 396-8547

#### Church Office Hours

**Monday – Friday**  
**9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Worship Services**  
**Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.**



*If we live by the Spirit, let us also  
be guided by the Spirit.*

*Galatians 5:25 (NRSV)*



**Holy Redeemer**  
Lutheran Church

*Join us as we grow to and for Christ!!!*